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COLONIAL MONOGRAPHS

HOW
THE DUTCH CAME
TO
MANHATTAN





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CAME TO MANHATTAN



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HOW THE DUTCH CAME TO MANHATTAN

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INTRODUCTION.

THE STORY OF THE DUTCH OF NEW AMSTERDAM has often been told in scholarly prose, but the picturesque feature of romantic fact has seldom, if ever, received the acknowledgment which it seems to deserve and require.

As a nation of sea-farers and traders, the Dutch acquired an enviable reputation, and for them to have so successfully founded a commercial colony was but to have been expected.

The history of the city of New York has been ably and exhaustively treated by many notable writers, and to them, as well as to other prolific sources, we are indebted for the verification of our facts.

The arrangement herein follows no previously conceived plan or outline, except that it supplements the first book of the series, "The Voyage of the Mayflower," but forms in itself a true chronicle of the events of the early Dutch occupation of Manhattan Island from its beginnings to its final reversion into English hands.

Personalities have been avoided, except so far as

has seemed necessary and advisable in order to retain the point and purpose of the text; namely, that it shall appear pleasing and attractive as well as truthful and correct; for the same reason generalities mostly have been dealt with, and a detailed statement only expressed where it commemorates some especially significant event.

Supplementing this, the drawings have been made with a like regard for fidelity and authenticity, and idealized only where deemed permissible and appropriate.

As is true of the other older cities in America, abundant evidence still exists in New York to remind one of the early days; the peculiar formation of the island has made any radical change in the laying out of the city impossible, hence any historical account must bespeak with praise in reference to the judgment and foresight of its founders and organizers.

“A noble tale well told, of valiant deeds well done,” is an epigram from an ancient tome, which it is to be hoped will be merited in some measure by the contents of this book.

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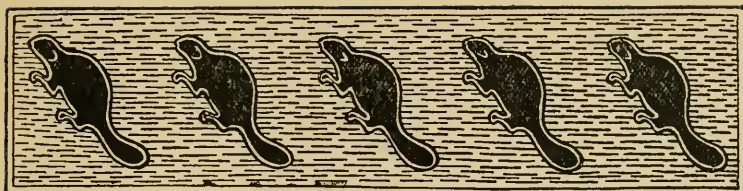
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THE DISCOVERY OF MANHATTAN







THE GLORY OF MANHATTAN has ever been its prestige in the world of commerce and of trade ; a metropolis where the merchants of the world might find a market for their wares. Amid these conditions and the influences acquired at the demands of commerce, a mighty and glorious city has arisen.

Relatively, it was the same state of affairs which existed in the early days when the traffic with the Netherlands, in the furs and skins of the Indian trader, made necessary its rise from a mere trading post to the leading city of the American continent.

Its dealings with the foreign world made its aspect truly cos-





mopolitan, a condition which did not exist in reference to any of the other colonies then established.

Jamestown was practically a farming, home-making settlement, and Plymouth at that time merely a refuge for a persecuted people. Hence it is but small wonder that a city of trade should be established and prosper in a location midway between the two. Geographically Manhattan Island occupies the natural location where such a commercial venture could but prosper, and which has since received the recognition, as was its due—a fact which, shorn of all its view of sentiment, is still romantic:





from the days of Hendrik Hudson's venture-seeking voyage; through the occupation of the various Dutch governors; the rule of Great Britain; the second tenure of the Dutch; again to revert to English control; and, finally, the era of American independence, under which the present city of New York has thriven and advanced. The island of Manhattan was, at this time, a mass of wood-crowned hills and grassy valleys, extending northward from the bay through a gently rolling region of marsh and glade, and peopled by Indians who, although savages, were supposed to be of a superior class to the average





red man encountered by the early settlers.

In the north were to be found bear, deer, beaver, and innumerable wild fowl, which, as with the Indian, served the Dutch as edibles of great relish, as well as proving valuable for the hides and pelts.

The Indian inhabitants, known as Manna-hattoes, paid much attention to their appearance and dress, which they fashioned from the skins of the fur-bearing animals abounding thereabouts, and decorated with beads and feathers. Their crowns were shaven, and moccasins of soft leather covered their feet ; thus, with pipe and tomahawk and bow and arrows,





was constituted their individual paraphernalia. They lived commonly in huts of a sufficient size to accommodate comfortably a half-dozen or more; and, though clannish to a certain extent, were possessed of considerable knowledge and acquaintance of the neighboring tribes. They were great hunters and traders, and the peltrie secured by all the tribes in the vicinity, beyond what was needed for their own uses, ultimately found its way into the store-houses of the Manhattan Indians, as soon after as the first Dutch traders made the demand therefore.

The standard of value by which such transactions were bargained





for was the wampum, the universal Indian money.

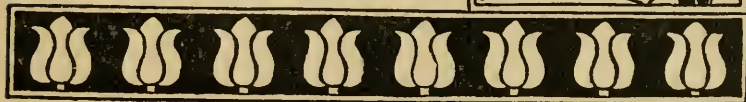
The wampum was made of the interior of the conch shell, of two colors, white, and bluish or purplish black, of which the black equaled in value two of the white ; three black wampums being about the value of two cents. The shells were commonly strung together in belts of a certain standard width and six feet in length, the black being valued at about five dollars, and the white two dollars and a half. Thus another characteristic of the early stamp of commerce upon the beginnings of the city is made apparent, and the seed afterward sown by the Dutch burgomasters was propa-





gated to an almost incalculable extent through the various transitory periods unto the present day.

The discoverer of Manhattan Island was undoubtedly Verrazano, a Florentine, who, under the patronage of the French, voyaged for the purpose of exploration and discovery throughout the North Atlantic, and who, in 1504, nearly one hundred and twenty-five years before the Dutch were finally ensconced as proprietors, anchored his ship at the "mouthe of an exceeding greate streame of water," landed, and erected a wooden cross bearing a metal plate inscribed with the royal arms of France, and took possession of the land in the





name of Francis, most Christian King of France and Navarre.

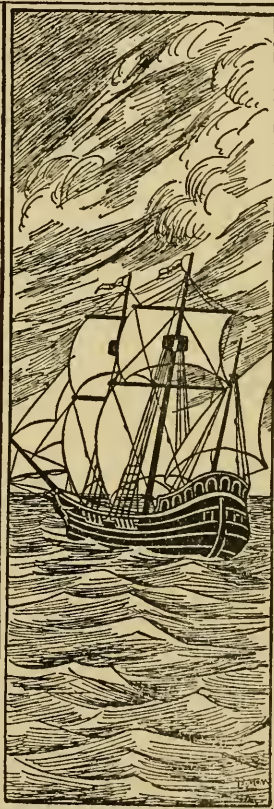
Later voyagers passed and re-passed the site of New Amsterdam, but none thought it of sufficient importance, or were encouraged to enter the bay or prospect in the immediate neighborhood, until the advent of Hendrik Hudson, a venturesome navigator descended from ancestors high in the circles of English trade for many generations. Hudson was then on a voyage of discovery for the Dutch East India Company of Amsterdam, with orders to locate, if possible, the long-sought-for new route to the Orient, a problem which has since even remained unsolved.





Hudson's previous experience and acquaintance with other navigators and explorers seemed to augur well for his ability to carry out the plans of his employers. The expedition was fitted out in a Dutch galliot, a clumsy craft of eighty tons burden, with square-sails on the two forward masts, and a mixed crew of twenty English and Dutch sailors. His instructions were "to search for nothing but a northwest passage." If he failed in this, he can hardly be said to have erred in his final judgment and report to the Company in reference to Mannahatta, which was, in the tongue of that day :

"This a good land to fall in





with, lads, and a pleasant land to see."

Meeting with many hardships and near approach to disaster, Hudson sought diligently for the hoped-for channel, but, finally, after severe buffeting about in northern waters, he was blown southward as far as the coast of Virginia. From here he cruised northward until was sighted the hills of Neversink. Here he anchored, at the portals of the gateway to New York, on September 2, 1609.

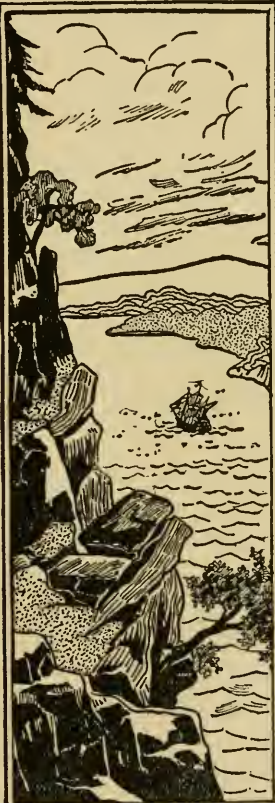
On the following day the ship was cautiously propelled up into the lower bay. At some distance Indians were observed paddling about in canoes; then were the





first introductions to the original settlers of Manhattan. The Indians soon drew near in their canoes, and in an attempt at parley offered tobacco as a peace-offering.

On the eleventh of September the craft came up through the Narrows, and anchored in full view of Manhattan Island, with the great river stretching northward even beyond the gaze or knowledge of the explorers, and which they believed was the long-looked-for pathway to Cathay. The following days were occupied by the voyage up the river, and on the seventeenth they arrived opposite the present city of Hudson. The final up-river point





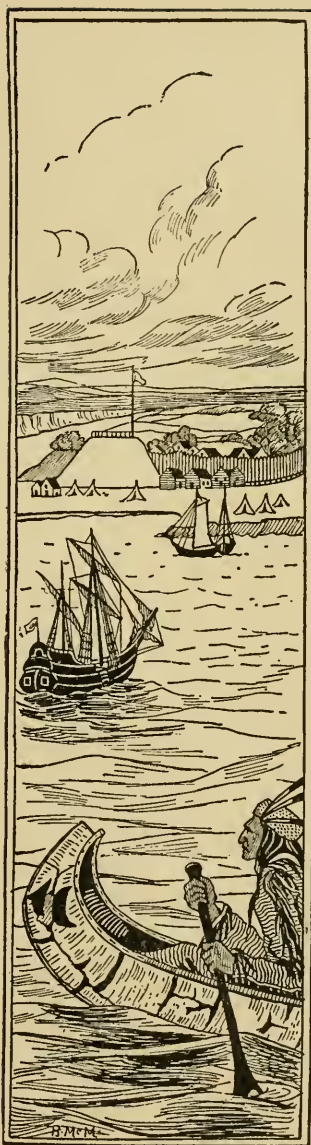
which they reached is a mooted question, although it is generally admitted that they got as far as Castle Island, just below Albany, and in an open boat proceeded thence to the head of navigation.

On the twenty-third of the month the ship dropped down toward Manhattan Island, and eleven days later sailed from the mouth of the great North River for Holland. Upon his arrival Hudson reported to the officers of the Company the results of his discoveries, which inspired those worthy officials to further extend their interests and province, and, if possible, to open up trading relations with the natives.

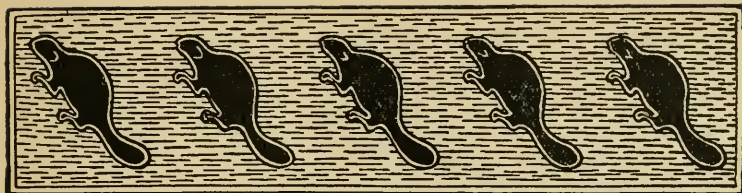
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THE SETTLEMENT



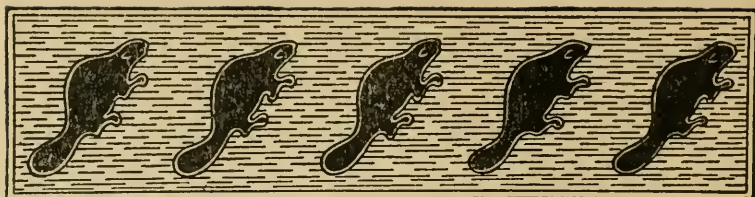




THROUGH the result of some years negotiation a plan for the development of the trade was finally put into operation by the Dutch West India Company, which was formed for the purpose. One Adrian Block in 1613 suffered the loss of his vessel by fire as she was lying off Manhattan Island loaded with skins and about to set sail for Holland.

Block and his men were forced, therefore, to spend the winter on shore in huts, which they erected from the timber at hand, surrounding the hamlet by a palisade. He named the settlement New Amsterdam, in honor of the first city of Holland. This is the first



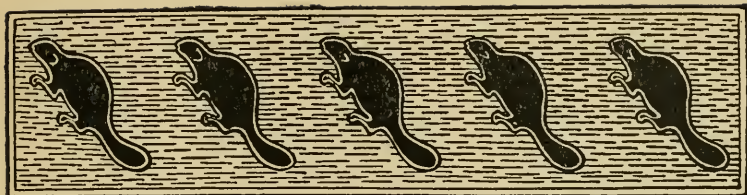


knowledge we have of actual settlement on the island, and which, it may be said, formed the beginnings of the present city.

Hitherto Manhattan Island had been looked upon merely as a trading post, but now, with a full appreciation of its value and importance as a settlement and a province, attention was turned in that direction, and immigration set in soon after ; a charter being granted to the Dutch West India Company for purposes of trade and colonization, the foundations of the city were laid in earnest.

In 1623 the *New Netherland*, a ship of two hundred and sixty tons, brought over thirty Walloon families, who were distrib-





uted at various points along the Hudson River and the shores of Long Island Sound, thereby extending and increasing the Dutch occupation, under whose direction and rule they had emigrated.

The following year a treaty alliance was formed between Holland and Great Britain, which encouraged Holland to strengthen her political, commercial, and social status in the New World by sending over still other bands of settlers.

In this relation it is to be recorded, even unto the present day, the preservation of the Dutch characteristics of nomenclature, manners, and customs noticeable alike in architecture,





furniture, and dress—in strong contradistinction to the English influences so marked and prevalent in the plantations of Virginia and Plymouth.



THE DUTCH GOVERNORS







WITHIN a twelvemonth Peter Minuit was commissioned Director-General of the province, and was granted power to preside over a council of five to be appointed to assist him in the government thereof.

Minuit arrived off New Amsterdam in May, 1626, in the ship *Sea Mew*, and immediately upon setting foot on shore inaugurated what appeared at the time to be a vigorous administration. Up to now the Dutch had held possession of Manhattan by right of occupation only, but Minuit, with due loyalty and energy, sought to establish the right beyond assail, and accordingly consummated a treaty with the Indians no less noteworthy or



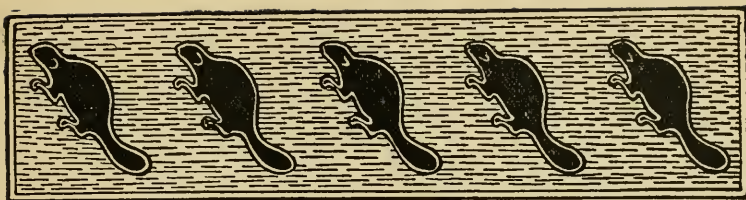


honorable than that of William Penn with the Indians from beyond the Delaware.

The price paid for the full title to the twenty-two thousand acres, comprising Manhattan Island, was sixty guilders, about twenty-four dollars, in merchandise, consisting of clothing and trinkets.

The territory acquired, with the surrounding region already claimed by the Dutch, was now created a province and county of Holland, and granted Armorial distinction, that of an Earl or Count—a beaver enclosed in a shield and surmounted by an Earl's coronet. The provisional civil government was organized in 1626, and from this time dates



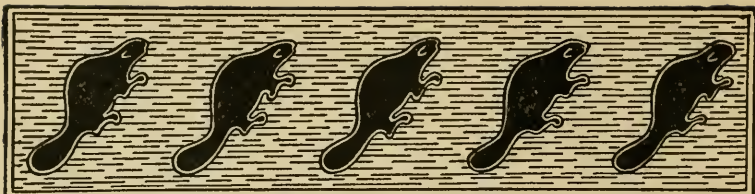


the actual official recognition and patronage toward the support of the colony.

In Minuit's administration was built a stone fort on the site of the present Battery, where the wooden palisade and earthwork then stood. This fortification was rectangular in form, built of earth, and faced with stone hewn from the extensive deposits in the vicinity, and of sufficient size as to be capable of harboring the entire population in case of need.

Occupying such a strategic position at the confluence of the North (Hudson's) and East rivers, the site could hardly have been improved upon for the purpose. In the waters adjacent thereto was the anchorage for





ships and the general rendezvous of the Indians and traders from roundabout—the Manna-hattoes from the north, the Hackensacks and Raritans from the west, the Rockaways, Canarsees, Shinnecocks, and Missiqueeges from Long Island and the eastward.

Around this redoubt grew up the little village, log huts at first, and later stone or brick cottages, which, with the advent of Petrus Stuyvesant, was incorporated as New Amsterdam — the name under which the settlement had been known since first given it by Adrian Block in 1613-14.

The Director also caused to be built a horse-mill for grinding corn, a staple article of food with the Indian, and whose value was





beginning to be appreciated by the settlers. On the second floor of the mill was a room intended to be fitted up and set apart for religious services. A stone building was also erected with a roof of thatched straw for use as the company's store-house. These were all contained within the walls of the fort, while clustered beneath outside the walls were the homes of the people.

During the first year of Minuit's régime there were exported to Holland furs to the value of nineteen thousand dollars, a state of affairs which should have betokened well for the future success of the Director's administration.

The following year brought up

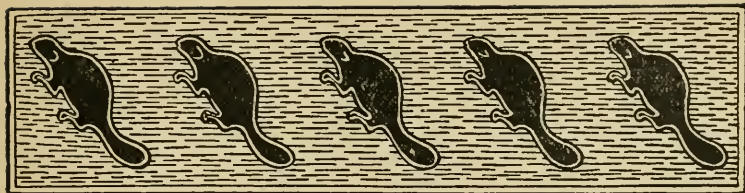




the question of the boundary line between the Province and New England, which for a time caused some official uneasiness and intercourse between Minuit and Governor Bradford, but which, however, passed off finally without serious complication, although the question was still left in an undecided and therefore unsettled state.

In 1632, for cogent reasons and views held by the home government, Minuit's administration came to an abrupt end; and in 1633, twelve months or more after he had sailed for Holland, Wouter Van Twiller arrived in the ship *Salt Mountain*, to continue the power vested in the title





of Director-General or Governor of the Province. Van Twiller arrived in State, accompanied by a troop of one hundred and four soldiers, who were to form the military guard and garrison of the fort. He was empowered with civil and military authority to proceed with the government of the Province as he might deem necessary for its proper advancement and improvement. "Wouter Van Twiller," says Diedrich Knickerbocker, "was five feet six inches in height and six feet five inches in circumference. His head was a perfect sphere, which rested sans neck on the top of his backbone. His legs were short but sturdy, and his two gray eyes twinkled in his round face

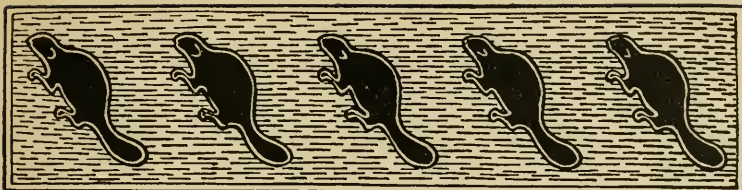




like stars in the firmament. His habits were as regular as his person was rotund, and his four daily meals, taken at regular intervals, occupied exactly one hour each. He smoked and doubted (he was not of energetic or active disposition, be it recalled) in his leathern-covered chair for eight hours, and slept, or was supposed to have done so, the remaining twelve."

A weaker, more vacillating, or more thoroughly incompetent governor could hardly have been found. A former clerk in the company's warehouse in Holland, Van Twiller had no thought above the gains of trade, and possessed absolutely no knowledge or experience of civil or military



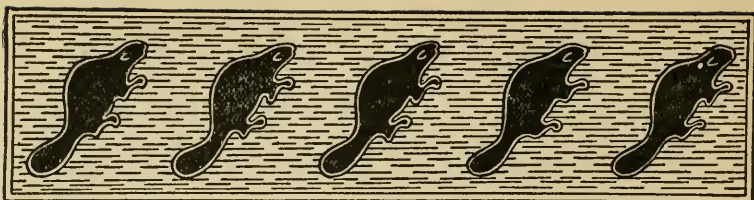


law and government. Hence his control of the affairs of the Province could meet with but scant favor. He secured the post through grace of family and political influence, having married the daughter of one of the wealthy Patroons, and, being himself a person of some means, was doubtless considered a desirable party for that reason as well.

With Van Twiller came Everardus Bogardus, a clergyman, and Adam Roelandsen, a school-teacher, the first in the Province, and desirable members of the community they proved to be.

Van Twiller had still further work done upon the fortifications started by the former Governor, and also built within, a barracks

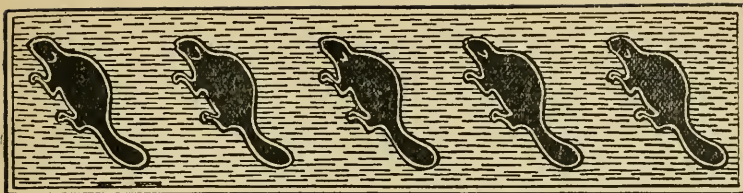




for the soldiers, likewise a wooden church, or rather a separate building to be used as a church. This was located on the East River shore, and nearby a graveyard was plotted, and an additional three windmills built—the ever useful servant of the Dutch, although stigmatized by the Indians as a foul spirit, they being much afraid of its “long waving arms and grinding teeth.”

In addition to these varied improvements, several other brick and stone buildings were at once erected, producing collectively evidences of a striking and gratifying growth. The houses were generally of one type, often of brick imported from Holland,



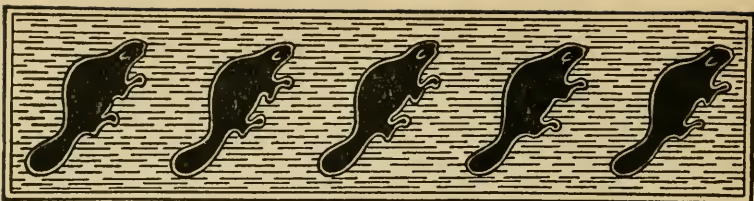


and roofed or slated with tiles, also imported ; gable ends, picturesquely notched, as was the fashion, wooden shutters for each small window, the doors, generally divided into an upper and lower half, as is the custom in Holland even at the present day. The whole surmounted, at the apex of the gable, by a weather-cock.

Two principal roadways were laid out, one extending northward from the fort through the interior of the island, the other running along the shore to the ferry landing on the East River.

The ferry to Long Island was attended by a farmer who lived near by, and who might be called





from his other occupations by persons desiring to be transported across the river, by a blast from a horn which hung from a tree near at hand, the rate of fare for foot passengers being three stivers of wampum.

Here, too, was the "Cage" and the Whipping-post, where Van Twiller was wont to practice his favorite mode of punishment for mild offenses, that of hanging the culprit suspended by a girdle around the waist in mid-air for as short or long a time as the offense might seem to warrant.

During Van Twiller's incumbency was inaugurated the system of Patroons, a sort of manorial grant or privilege, whereby cer-





tain wealthy persons were allowed to establish colonies interdependent with the provincial rule, and in consideration of their being able to influence fifty or more persons to migrate in a body and accompany them hither for purposes of colonization, they were granted in fee simple the rights to a tract of land sixteen miles in length and eight miles in width. The title of Patroon, or Lord of the Manor, was bestowed upon all who could and would so found colonies. This attracted many sturdy burghers from Holland, as well as noblemen of wealth and social position, who gladly welcomed a plan whereby they might acquire





still further wealth, dignity, and power.

Being impressed by the results attained by the Indians in the neighborhood in the cultivation of maize, beans, and such like truck for food, Van Twiller was desirous that the community itself should produce such a sufficiency of a like product as to be able to ship it to Holland for home consumption and for export; accordingly were established a series of small farms to be known as the Company's Gardens or Bouwerries. These gardens were located immediately northward from the settled portion of the Island; four on the Eastern shore and two on the West shore. Besides





the cornfields and cabbage gardens, here also bloomed in bright array the native sun-flowers, bell-flowers and yellow lilies, all in true keeping with the then distinctive, though now corrupt and incongruous, name—"The Bowery."

On farm number one was built a dwelling house, barn, brewery, and boat-house, the occupancy and use of which the Governor himself partook of, also purchasing as his own personal property Nut Island, now Governor's Island, which, it may be stated, has formed a lasting monument to the memory of the sleek Van Twiller and the period of his rule over the city.

Van Twiller soon became the





largest individual land owner in the Province, acquiring successively Great Barn and Blackwell's Islands in the East River, and yet other tracts on Manhattan Island and the mainland.

Ere long Dominic Bogardus proved to be an unruly member of the settlement, publicly rebuking the Governor for some apparent laxity, and perhaps justly, although naturally resented by Van Twiller, after which the preacher anathematized him from the pulpit as "a child of the Devil," resulting in the Governor's being doubly incensed. It served, however, to rouse the people to a recognition of the exact state of affairs, although,



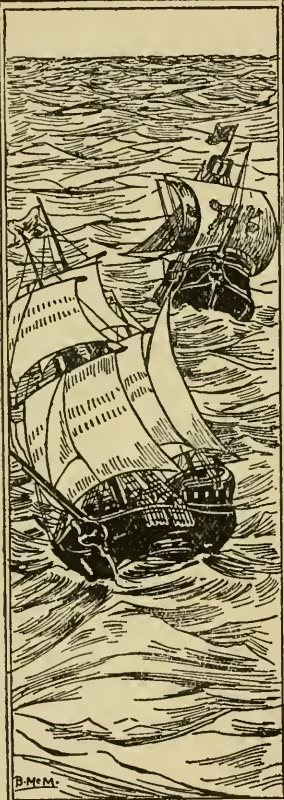
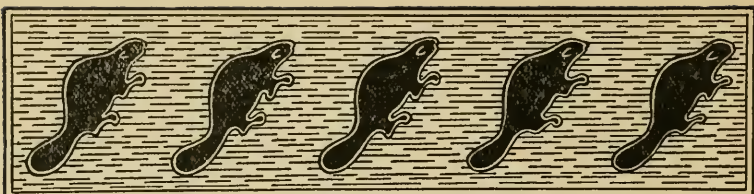


of course, Van Twiller had his adherents and partisans.

Two factions sprang up, and the quarrel continued until it finally culminated in his (Van Twiller's) recall to Holland.

In 1638 William Kieft, a man of far different stamp, although of far less integrity as well, was appointed to succeed him. Kieft came to the post preceded by various rumors to his discredit, and was therefore somewhat coolly received. He had previously failed in business in Hull, and, as was the custom, his portrait was hung upon the gallows in the public square, an ignominy befitting the offense or default, as the case may have been.

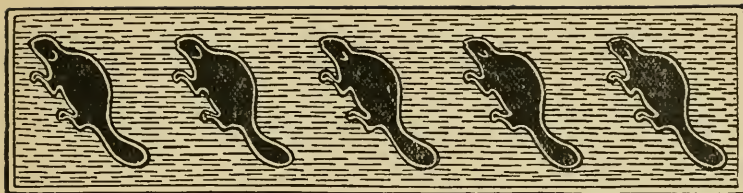




Such an introduction was hardly likely to inspire a great amount of confidence at the start, even should sanguine conjecture as to the future seem to warrant it. The arrival of the Governor in a Dutch man-of-war of two hundred and eighty tons burden and twenty guns, accompanied by a Spanish caravel, captured on the way from Holland's old enemy, was naturally a significant event.

So far as Kieft's present relations with the Province were concerned, he stood in every respect as the superior of Van Twiller. Small in stature, fussy, and of fiery disposition and avaricious in temperament, he ruled over the people with a high hand, regardless

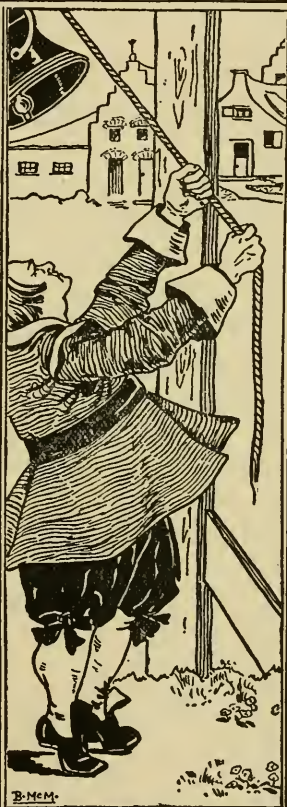




of their remonstrance. He took council with no one, but administered the law according to his own interpretation thereof.

There existed in the Province at this time many rampant abuses which demanded reform, and to this purpose Kieft prided himself on his ability to lay down the law of remedy and to afterward uphold its proper observance.

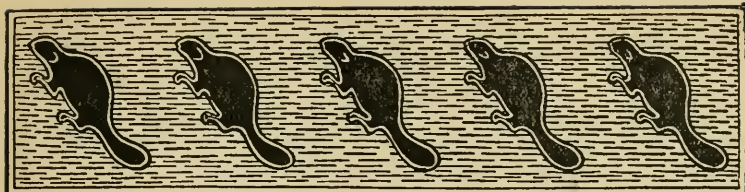
A regulation provided for the ringing of the town bell announcing religious services on Sunday ; at nine o'clock each evening as the hour for retiring ; in the morning as a call to labor ; and, as occasion required, as a summons for witnesses and prisoners to appear before the court.





It was forbidden to tap beer during the time in which divine worship was in progress; individual smuggling and trading in tobacco and furs was forbidden, and profanity and vice in general were perceptibly checked in their career. Powder and guns were often traded with the Indians, an undesirable thing to have done, and which by Kieft's decree was made a capital offense. The standard of value of wampum was regulated and fixed by law; all of which, being the first expressions of the new Governor, produced a decided improvement in the views of the majority of the citizens regarding him. The fort, church, and government build-





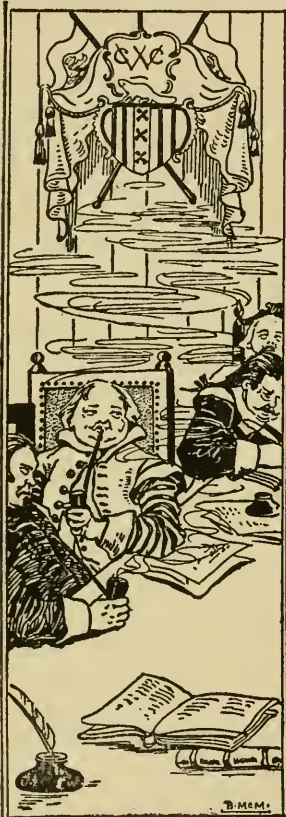
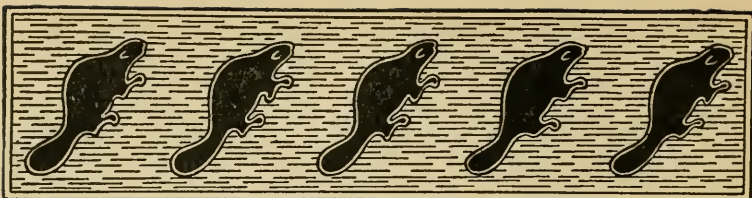
ings were repaired, and the guns of the fort brought back to a state of efficiency from which they had sadly fallen; repairs were made upon the Company's ships, which were now leaky and generally run down.

This general restoration immediately brought the affairs of the colony up to a high plane of excellency.

The *Stadt Huys* was built in 1642 near the shore of the East River, in full view of all incoming ships as they anchored off the fort awaiting government inspection.

The building was of stone, about fifty feet square, and, including the gables, five stories in





height, following the general form of Dutch architecture then in use. The council room was of imposing aspect and grandeur, decorated as it was with the orange, blue, and white of the West India Company and the reflection of color from the arms of New Amsterdam graven upon the windows, where, as described by Washington Irving, "The secretary only kept the minutes of the meeting in condensed form, the Dutch not being prone to producing voluminous reports of their proceedings." Here the council sat and smoked during their discussions and debates, regulating the time by the pipeful, an admirable and exact measure-

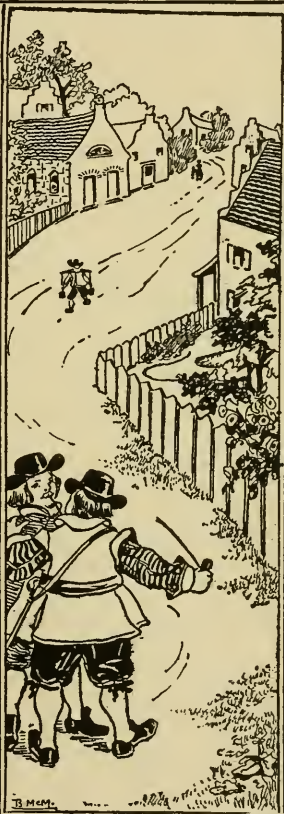




ment, as the pipe in the mouth of a trueborn Dutchman was never liable to those accidents and irregularities that are continually putting our clocks out of order. In this fashion did the profound council of New Amsterdam smoke and doze and ponder from week to week, month to month, and year to year as to what manner they should conduct the infant settlement; meantime the town took care of itself.

A stone church was also erected inside the fort at a cost of one thousand dollars, and a public surveyor was appointed to lay out boundary lines at a salary of eighty dollars per annum.

The first recorded sale of land



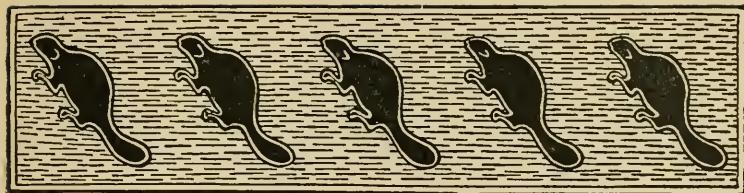


was: "Abraham Van Steenwyck to Anthony Van Fees, a lot thirty feet front by one hundred and ten feet deep, for nine dollars and sixty cents."

An edict was issued forbidding householders to harbor any traveler for more than one meal or a single night's lodging without first notifying the Governor. The growth of the town and the largely increasing number of travelers rendered this an inconvenience and made the establishment of a public house a necessity.

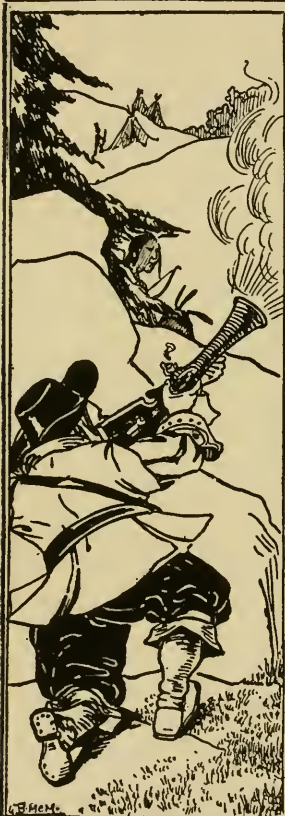
A tavern was accordingly built and Philip Gerritson appointed mine host. In after times many a traveler and trader from afar—Virginia, New England, or from





across the seas — found shelter and entertainment therein, and amid the pleasures of the flowing bowl of brandy or of port, Dutch cheeses, ginger-bread, and North Sea herring, and the solace of the long clay pipe, "the Dutchman's ever-present rest and hope," was heard and discussed the latest news from all quarters of the globe, while lounging on the settle by the door might always be found, in pleasant weather, a little company of burghers, debating the various aspects of their ventures and professions, the advent of the latest ship to arrive, and the news of politics, war, and rumors of war, then a constant happening, from abroad.





During Kieft's administration troubles with the natives were of frequent and disastrous occurrence. In a restricted sense, warfare itself, may be said to have existed. Doubtless both sides were at fault, and the condition, while it resulted in many fatalities, was more of the nature of a constant annoyance than any special fear or apprehension as to the possibility of the town's being sacked or pillaged and the settlers exterminated.

The last of the royal Dutch Governors was Petrus Stuyvesant, a man of tyrannic and despotic nature, who held the office for eighteen years. Born in Holland in 1602, he early evinced a



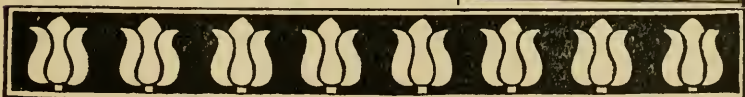


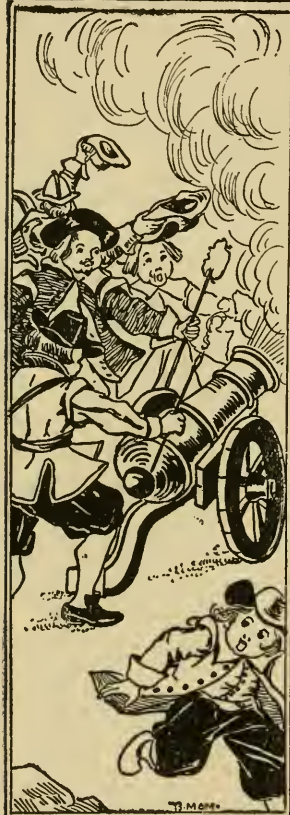
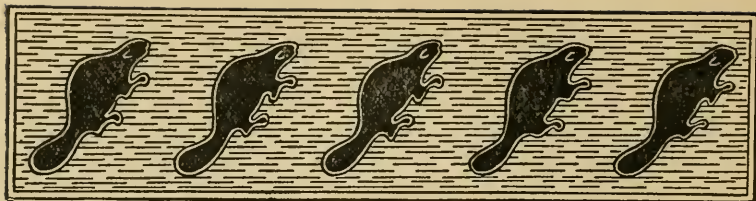
desire for a military career, and accordingly his education was begun in that direction.

Previous to his coming to New Amsterdam he had served as Military Governor of Curacao, where he lost his right leg in an attack led upon the Portuguese at St. Martin.

He was above the medium height, of fine physique, and dressed commonly in slashed hose fastened at the knee with a knotted scarf, velvet jacket with slashed sleeves over a full ruffled shirt, and rosettes on his shoes.

Abrupt in manner, conventional, cold, full of prejudice and passion and often unapproachable, he still possessed sympathy

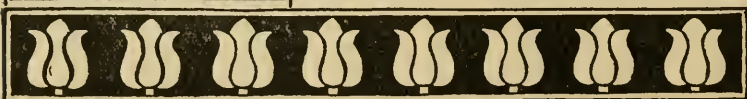




and affection to a large degree, which, coupled with his quick perception, made the new Governor a man to be regarded in the not too genial light of a master among men.

His present commission was dated 28th July, 1646, and charged him to attend carefully to the advancement, promotion, and preservation of trade, commerce, and friendship.

Upon the arrival in the Bay of the ship which bore the Governor thither, the people of New Amsterdam were well nigh delirious in their joy of welcome, and burned nearly all the powder in the city in their noisy endeavors to duly impress that worthy with





their satisfaction at the new rule about to be put in force. Stuyvesant's appearance upon landing is thus described by that rare chronicler, Diedrich Knickerbocker :

“ Methinks I behold him again, in my imagination, in regimental coat of German blue, with large brass buttons extending to the chin, with voluminous skirts turned up at the corners, and brimstone colored breeches. His face rendered terrible by a pair of black mustachios, rat-tailed cue behind, stock of black leather, cocked hat, his wooden leg banded with silver, and his gold-headed cane.”

Stuyvesant replied to their welcome forthwith, and expressed





his pleasure at having come to live among them. He promised, further, to govern as a father, which being interpreted to mean with an iron hand, if in his own judgment it might be deemed advisable, somewhat dampened their joyful ardor.

The Council was organized on the 27th of May and a Court of Justice opened.

The people were induced to enlarge and improve their dwelling houses; a Market House was built and plans made for an annual cattle fair.

Stuyvesant, in the course of his tenure, had also to deal with the still open question, the New England boundary.



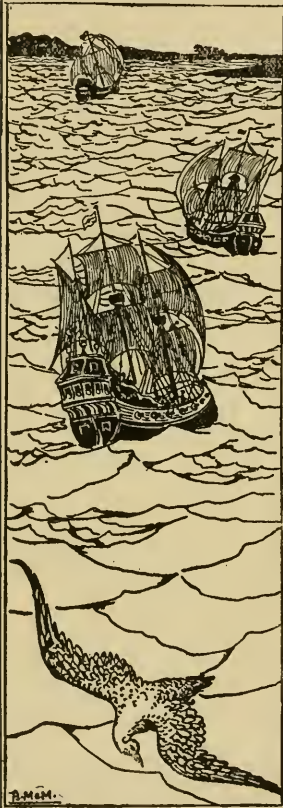


Frequent complaints as to encroachment came from both sides. In 1650 the Governor journeyed to Hartford and arranged for the permanent recognition of new boundaries yet to be laid down.

This was mutually agreed upon by the representatives of each colony there assembled, and a contract of perpetual peace assented to.

Upon the Governor's return to New Amsterdam he found that public opinion was decidedly against his procedure and the results of his agreement. This was manifestly expressed by a public declaration to the effect that the Governor had ceded away enough





territory to found fifty colonies—fifty miles square—somewhat of an exaggeration, to be sure, but so incensed were the people that they spared no pains to impress his Excellency with the spirit of their disapproval, whereupon the Governor grew haughty and diffident and threatened to dissolve his Council.

In 1665 Stuyvesant journeyed to the Delaware with three ships and seven hundred men, and attacked and subdued the Swedish colony which had settled there under the leadership of the disgruntled Minuit, who, when renounced by the Dutch, went over to the Swedish powers with glowing accounts of the desirability of



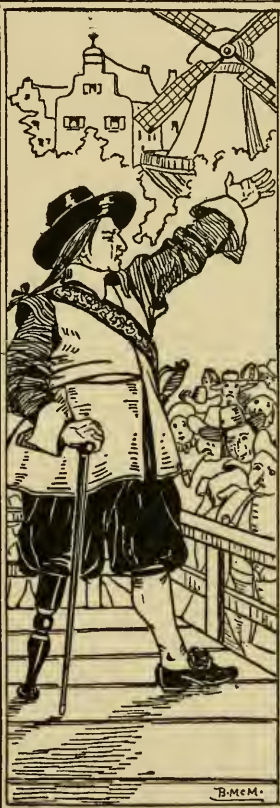


a settlement in the vicinity of Manhattan.

The expedition proving successful, the Governor returned crowned with the glory of triumph and victory.

Soon after this a new plan for the municipal government of New Amsterdam was arrived at, in Holland, and the City of New Amsterdam was then first officially recognized (2d February, 1653).

Upon the receipt of this news by Stuyvesant he made a public speech in which he intimated that his power was not in the slightest degree abridged or abrogated. Soon after, however, he was recalled to Holland by the home



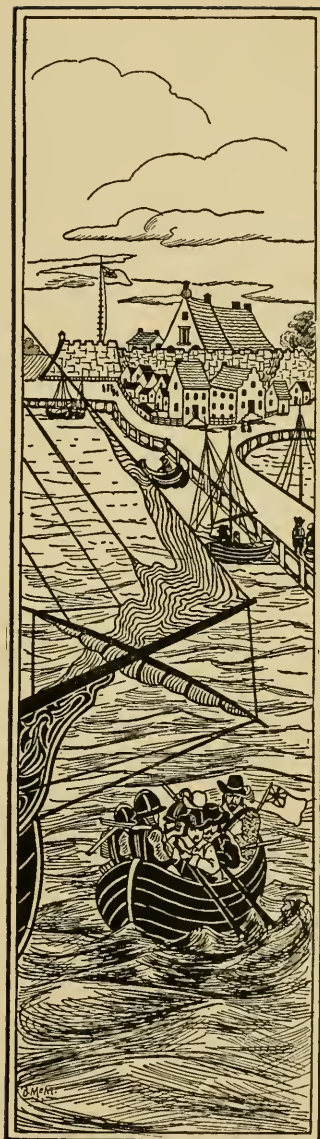


government, a suggestive fact, which caused many to question the extent of his present power, and assured them that the law of the tyrant might perhaps not be absolute, and doubtless urged them to further remonstrate as future developments came forth.

The order of his recall was revoked upon the declaration of war between England and Holland, and great preparation was instituted towards strengthening the fortifications of the city. Additional breastworks and strongholds were run up, and a sort of barricade, beneath the surface of the water, was extended across the North River.



ENGLISH CONTROL





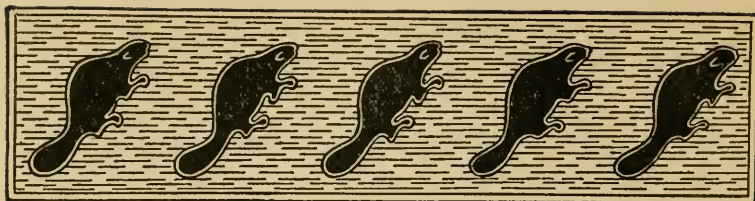


IN March, 1664, Charles II. granted to his brother James, then Duke of York, "the territory comprehending Long Island and the islands in the neighborhood, and all the lands and rivers from the west side of the Connecticut River to the eastern shore of Delaware Bay."

The English equipped four vessels, with 450 men, under Colonel Richard Nicolls, to take possession of the Province.

Nicolls with his "red-coats" arrived off the Fort on 30th of August, and to the consternation and dismay of the inhabitants assembled on the Bowling Green, as well as to Stuyvesant himself, immediately sent ashore a sum-





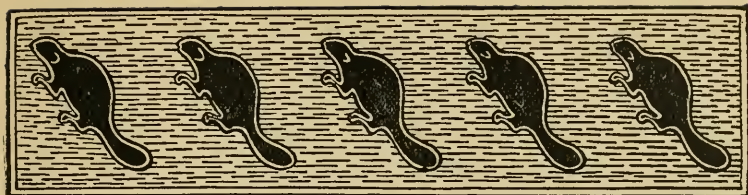
mons to surrender, promising life, liberty and estate to all who would peacefully accept of its conditions.

The Governor read the letter to the Council, and fearing assent by the people should the tenor of it become known, he tore it into shreds and crushed it beneath his feet.

Meanwhile the people themselves, in anticipation of some decisive move, had assembled outside the building and were shouting clamorously for information as to the contents of the letter.

Returning to the Council chamber, Stuyvesant gathered up the torn fragments and gave them to the Burgomasters in ses-





sion to do with as they pleased, at the same time, of his own accord sending a defiant answer to Nicolls, and ordering the garrison of the Fort to prepare for an attack.

In an unguarded moment the warring Governor yielded to the wiser counsel and entreaty of popular sentiment, not to shed innocent blood in what could prove but a vain attempt at defense, and withheld immediate action.

After some days, although it galled him bitterly to consent, Stuyvesant signed the treaty at his Bouwerie house, and within a few hours a legion of British soldiery marched into the Fort and formally took possession of the city, the name being changed





to New York in compliment to its Royal Patron.

After the surrender Stuyvesant was, by order of the State's General, recalled to Holland to tender a report of his administration in person. He arrived at The Hague in October, 1667, where he remained until his return to America a year later.

Here the supplanted Governor settled on his Bouwerie, and until his death proved to be an altogether more valuable citizen and pleasing a neighbor than was thought to be at all likely from his previous reputation. He interested himself amiably in church and municipal affairs, but succumbed in a few years to





the ravages of time and advancing age in an attack of cholera morbus. Thus, as the chroniclers have said, "died a loyal, upright, and honest man."

His funeral was conducted with a grandeur hitherto unknown in the New World, and his body entombed in his private chapel, which stood on the site of the present Saint Mark's Church, and where the following record of his burial may yet be seen :



In this vault lies buried
PETRUS STUYVESANT,
 Late Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief
 of New Amsterdam,
 In New Netherland, now called New York,
 and the
 Dutch West India Islands, Died A.D. 167 $\frac{1}{2}$,
 Aged 80 years.





Another memorial, which up to a generation ago had proved equally lasting, was the so-called Stuyvesant Pear Tree, which stood surrounded by an iron fence at Thirteenth street and Third avenue.

Governor Nicolls immediately set about reconstructing the civil government of the city, replacing the former Burgomasters and Schepens by a Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs, as was the English form.

The administration was peacefully conducted in the main, Nicolls meeting with but little opposition from the Dutch residents, who seemed ready to fall in with the affairs of the new régime.





The following year war broke out anew between England and Holland, and bethinking some attempt might be made by the Dutch to reclaim the city, the Governor made vigorous preparations for its defense. The Dutch fleet, however, failed to put in an appearance, and the serene period of Governor Nicolls' rule continued until 1668, when at his own request he was recalled to England. His successor was Colonel Francis Lovelace, who held the office until 1673, when the truce between the two countries again suffered disruption, the city reverting finally to the Dutch.





THE SECOND
OCCUPATION
OF THE
DUTCH







ON 29th July, 1673, two Dutch vessels sailed into the harbor, and the commander of the expedition presented the following message to the English Governor:

"Sir—The force of war now lying within your sight is sent by the High and Mighty States and his Serene Highness, the Prince of Orange, for the purpose of destroying their enemies. We have sent you, therefore, this letter, together with our trumpeter, to the end that upon sight thereof you surrender unto us the fort called James, promising good quarter, or by refusal, we shall be obliged to proceed both by land and by water in such manner as





we shall find most advantageous for the High and Mighty States.”

Dated: The Ship Swanenburgh, anchored betwixt Staaten and Longe Islands, 9th August (30th July, O. S.), 1673.

Signed :

* CORNELIS EVERTSEN,

* JACOB BENCKES.

No immediate reply being forthcoming, a cannonading was begun, killing and wounding many men, and resulting in the final capitulation of the city, which was surrendered upon two conditions :

“ I. That Officers and Soldiers should march out of the Fort with their arms, colors flying, and





drums beating, without hindrance or molestation.

"II. Thereupon the Fort would be delivered with all military arms and ammunition remaining therein."

These terms being quickly acceded to, the Dutch once more found themselves in possession.

Public opinion was divided in its sympathies, but all naturally obeyed the mandate, and the Orange insignia again flew above the fort. The city had meanwhile improved greatly in appearance, increased in value, and more than doubled in population.

The name New York was now changed to New Orange, or at least so it was known to the loyal





Dutch, although the English nomenclature may be said never to have been separated from its memory since first given in 1664.

The Dutch only enjoyed their second period of rule for a few months, as on the 9th February in the following year (1674) a new Treaty of Peace was signed which restored to Great Britain the territory wrested from her the year before, and on the 10th November the new English Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, entered upon the scene.

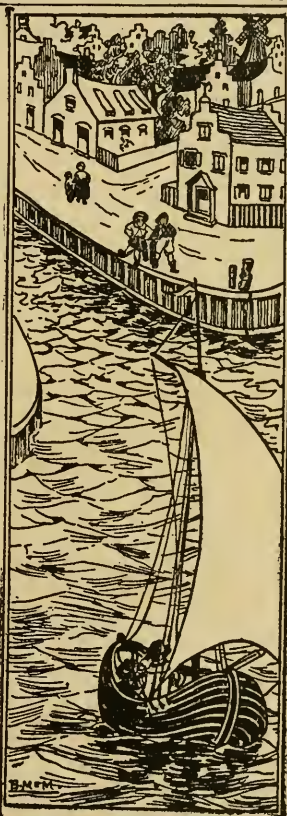
So passed away the Dutch dominion in North America, step by step, from the early establishment of the customs of Holland, its system of township and





municipal government, the transplanting of the Old World names and terms, the beginnings and growth of commerce, the friend and enemy, the Indian, and the progress of foreign encroachment, which culminated in the ascendancy and final supremacy of an alien power. The annals of New York are surpassed by no other city in America in topics of varied character, romantic incident, general interest, instructive lesson, or dignified distinction. The pioneers left their deep impress on the face and depth alike of the natural attributes of the Empire City.

The settlers who first planted the flag of Holland in the empire





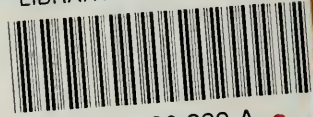
of the Indian were plain-spoken, earnest men, who left their native land to extend and enrich her power and possession, and bind another province in a new quarter of the globe to the United Netherland. Traders, chiefly, although they never ignored the principles of religion, education and good government, and the early accounts published by some of their historians, and the admirably written records and correspondence left by the Stuyvesants, Beekmans, and Van Rensselaers attest fully as to their erudition and scholarship.







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